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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,816	10/25/2001	Benjamin J. Parker	1688 (15723)	4720

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EXAMINER

ALOMARI, FIRAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/003,816

Applicant(s)

PARKER ET AL.

Examiner

Firas Alomari

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/16/2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed 04/04/2005 has been accepted. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended, claim 20 have been added.
2. Applicant's arguments filed 04/04/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim1-2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wadlow et al. (6,230,271).

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AS per claim 1: Wadlow discloses a private network apparatus for connecting a user to an external Internet comprising:

- A plurality of security service pathways each providing a respective combination of security service features; (Col 3, lines 56-60; and Col 2, lines 40-46)
- A service selection dashboard allowing said user to select from a plurality of security service features for user traffic to and from said user; (Col 4; lines 32-34 and item MW in Figure 1 discloses a Maintenance Workstation used to inspect or change the behavior of devices)
- A network management server coupled to said service selection dashboard for storing a subscriber configuration in response to said user selected security service features; (Col 8, Lines 45-50)
- A pass-through router for coupling to **said user traffic** to said external internet **independently of said security service pathways**; (Col 4, lines 36-38 and External router (ER) in FIG1)
- A service selection gateway coupled to said user for directing said user traffic to and from one of said service selection dashboard, said pass-through router, or one of said security service pathways; and (Col 4, lines 44-51 and Customer Local router (CLR) in FIG 1)
- A security service router for coupling said security service pathways to said external Internet; (Col 4, lines 36-38 and External router (ER) in FIG1)

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- Wherein said service selection gateway directs said user traffic to said service selection dashboard if said subscriber configuration is in an initialized state; (Col 8, Lines 52-56)
- Wherein said service selection gateway directs said user traffic to a respective one of said security service pathways or to said pass-through router in response to said subscriber configuration after initialization by said service selection dashboard. (FIG 7 through FIG 17 show different communication pathways between a customer workstation and the public network in response to different security configuration by the customer)

As per claim 2: Wadlow discloses the apparatus of claim 1 wherein said security service pathways include at least one pathway having a firewall. (Col 6, Lines 59-64; a router with a filtering policy is a firewall)

As per claim 4: Wadlow discloses the apparatus of claim 1 wherein said security service pathways include at least one pathway having a content filter. (Col 8, Lines 12-26)

As per claim 5: Wadlow discloses the apparatus of claim 1 wherein said security service pathways include at least one pathway having a firewall and a content filter. (Col 9, lines 59-64; shows a modification to a packet-filtering path to enable application and packet filtering)

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As per claim 20: (**new**) Wadlow discloses the apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a user-side switch coupling said service selection gateway to said security service pathways (Col 4, lines 44-51 & CSR in FIG 1); and
an internet-side switch coupling said security service pathways to said security service router (Col 4, lines 28-43 & ETC, ER in FIG 1).

3. Claims 14, 16-18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barrett (6,832,321).

As per claim 14: Barrett discloses a method of providing security service in a network interface to an external Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

Directing a user to a captive portal; (Col 8, lines 25-49)

Presenting security service features to said user; (Col 8; lines 25-49 and FIG. 6)

Storing a subscription profile for said user in response to security service features selected by said user through said captive portal; (Col 8, Lines 19-24 and Col 10, lines 23-29)

Receiving user traffic from said user destined for said external Internet at a service selection gateway; (Col 8, lines 59-66)

Determining from said subscription profile which security service features to apply to said user traffic; (Col 9, Lines 16-21)

If said subscription profile for said user includes any security service features, then re-directing said user traffic to a **particular** security service pathway of a **plurality of**

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security service pathways, said particular security service pathway corresponding to said security service features identified by said user profile; and

If said subscription profile for said user includes no security service features, then re-directing said user traffic to a pass-through router **for coupling said user traffic to said external internet.** (Col 9 line 55 through Col 10 line 8)

As per claim 16: Barrett discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said firewall services comprise selectable grades of firewall protection including a high grade firewall protection, a medium grade firewall protection, and a low grade firewall protection. (FIG. 6 and Col 8 lines 25-50)

As per claim 17: Barrett discloses the method of claim 16 wherein said low-grade firewall protection comprises port blocking for outgoing user traffic. (Col 9, Lines 16-21/ the process could b modified to check the user-configurable security setting before establishing outbound connection)

As per claim 18: Barrett discloses the method of claim 16 wherein said medium grade firewall protection comprises port blocking for incoming and outgoing user traffic. (Col 9, Lines 16-21 and Col 8, Lines 27-35 / blocking outbound connection and inbound connections)

As per claim 19: Barrett discloses the method of claim 16 wherein said high-grade firewall protection comprises port blocking for outgoing user traffic and blocking of all incoming traffic not initiated by user. (Col 8, Lines 27-35 and Col 4, lines 1-7)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 6-7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wadlow et al. US (6,230,271) in view of Schneider et al. US (6,178,505).

As per claim 3: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show security service pathways with a virus scanner. However Schneider teaches the using of anti-virus system in a network apparatus to provide further protection to users data (Col 42, Lines 10-29). Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Schneider to include virus scanners on the security pathways. One would be motivated to do so in

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order to provide an additional level of security to the user by ensuring that the transmitted information came from authorized source and doesn't contain any viruses.

As per claim 6: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show security service pathways with a virus scanner. However Schneider teaches the using of anti-virus system in a network apparatus to provide further protection to users data (Col 42, Lines 10-29). Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Schneider to include virus scanners on the security pathways. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide an additional level of security to the user by ensuring that the transmitted information came from authorized source and doesn't contain any viruses.

As per claim 7: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show security service pathways with a virus scanner and a content filter. However Schneider teaches the using of anti-virus and (Col 42, Lines 10-29) and a content filter system (Col 40, Line 42 through Col 41, Line 29) in a network apparatus to provide protection to users data. Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Schneider to include virus scanners and a content filter on the security pathways. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide an additional level of security to the user by ensuring that the

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transmitted information came from authorized source doesn't contain any viruses and ensure that the user is authorized to view or use content of the data being transmitted.

As per claim 8: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show security service pathways with a virus scanner and a content filter. However Schneider teaches the using of anti-virus and (Col 42, Lines 10-29) and a content filter system (Col 40, Line 42 through Col 41, Line 29) in a network apparatus to provide protection to users data. Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Schneider to include virus scanners and a content filter on the security pathways. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide an additional level of security to the user by ensuring that the transmitted information came from authorized source doesn't contain any viruses and ensure that the user is authorized to view or use content of the data being transmitted.

6. Claims 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wadlow et al. US (6,230,271) in view of Barrett US (6,832,321)

As per claim 9: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show the firewalls providing different grades of firewall protection. However Barrett teaches the using of a firewall providing different grades of firewall protection (FIG. 6 and Col 8 lines 25-50).

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Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Barrett to include a firewall providing different levels of protection. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security solution that doesn't impose one-size-fits-all solution on the users of the network (Col 5, Lines 5-21).

As per claim 10: Wadlow discloses a plurality of security service pathways including a combination of firewall and application filleting but doesn't explicitly show the security pathways with firewalls providing high grade firewall protection, medium firewall protection and low firewall protection. However Barrett teaches the using of a firewall providing high firewall protection (Col 9, Lines 16-21 and Col 8, Lines 27-35 and Col 4, lines 1-7), medium firewall protection (Col 9, Lines 16-21 and Col 8, Lines 27-35) and low firewall protection (Col 9, Lines 16-21). Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with the teaching of Barrett to include a firewall providing high level protection, medium protection and low level protection. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security solution that enable the system to selectively grant access to the network from the client machine based on the user security preference (Col 4, Lines 54-57) and doesn't impose one-size-fits-all solution on the users of the network (Col 5, Lines 5-21).

As per claim 11: Wadlow discloses plurality of firewalls with different filtering polices but he doesn't explicitly show a low-grade firewall protection comprising port blocking for

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outgoing traffic. However Barrett teaches the using of firewall providing low grade protection by blocking outgoing traffic (Col 9, Lines 16-21). Therefore it would been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with teaching of Barrett to include a low grade firewall protection comprising of blocking of outgoing traffic. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security solution that enable the system to selectively grant access to the network from the client machine based on the user security preference (Col 4, Lines 54-57) and doesn't impose one-size-fits-all solution on the users of the network (Col 5, Lines 5-21).

As per claim 12: Wadlow discloses plurality of firewalls with different filtering polices but he doesn't explicitly show a medium grade firewall protection comprising port blocking for outgoing traffic and incoming. However Barrett teaches the using of firewall providing medium grade protection by blocking outgoing and incoming traffic (Col 9, Lines 16-21 and Col 8, Lines 27-35). Therefore it would been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with teaching of Barrett to include a low grade firewall protection comprising of blocking of outgoing and incoming traffic. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security solution that enable the system to selectively grant access to the network from the client machine based on the user security preference (Col 4, Lines 54-57) and doesn't impose one-size-fits-all solution on the users of the network (Col 5, Lines 5-21).

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As per claim 13: Wadlow discloses plurality of firewalls with different filtering policies but he doesn't explicitly show a high grade firewall protection comprising port blocking for outgoing traffic and incoming. However Barrett teaches the using of firewall providing medium grade protection by blocking outgoing and incoming traffic not initiated by user (Col 8, Lines 27-35 and Col 4, lines 1-7). Therefore it would be obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wadlow system with teaching of Barrett to include a high grade firewall protection comprising of blocking of outgoing and incoming traffic not initiated by user. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide a security solution that enable the system to selectively grant access to the network from the client machine based on the user security preference (Col 4, Lines 54-57) and doesn't impose one-size-fits-all solution on the users of the network (Col 5, Lines 5-21).

7. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett US (6,832,321) in view of Schneider et al. US (6,178,505)

As per claim 15: Barrett discloses a system providing security service features including firewalls but doesn't explicitly show a security service features including content filtering services, and a virus scanning service. However Schneider teaches the using of anti-virus and (Col 42, Lines 10-29) and a content filter system (Col 40, Line 42 through Col 41, Line 29) in a network apparatus to provide protection for users. Therefore it would be obvious to ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention

was made to modify Barrett system with the teaching of Schneider to include virus scanners and a content filter on the security pathways. One would be motivated to do so in order to provide an additional level of security to the user by ensuring that the transmitted information came from authorized source and doesn't contain any viruses and to ensure that the user is authorized to view or use content of the data being transmitted.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant amends claims 1 and 14 and added claim 20.

Regarding applicant argument that Wadlow doesn't disclose a plurality of security service pathways providing a combination of security service features, the examiner disagrees with applicant. Wadlow teaches different security service pathways wherein each pathway provide a respective combination of security features corresponding to the security policy for a specific customer, Claim 1 in Wadlow's is more specific as it disclose a plurality of communication paths between components of the plurality of packet processing components (networking devices) configurable policy enforcement means, at each connection of a communication path and a packet processing component, for enforcing a packet policy for packets transported between the communication path and the packet processing component, wherein the packet policy is a function of the customer security policies. Furthermore Wadlow shows in FIG. 7

through FIG. 17 different examples of paths for traffic each path is corresponding to a different security policy. Therefore the examiner disagree with the applicant that Wadlow fails to disclose a plurality of communication pathways each providing a combination of security features.

Regarding applicant argument that Wadlow doesn't disclose a means for allowing the user to select a security service features, the examiner disagree with the applicant.

Wadlow teaches that different customers may have a different security policies (See Abstract) and the system includes means for obtaining customers security policy (Col 2, lines 40-45 & Col 4, lines 28-43). Claims 1 and 2 are more specific as they disclose "means for obtaining / storing customer security policies, wherein a customer security policy is a set of one or more rule defining a set of capabilities that are allowed or disallowed for a given customer's secure network, modifiable in response to security attacks encountered, and wherein customer security policies can be distinct for distinct customers;" Further more claim 6 disclose "a policy database containing a plurality of policies for the multiple customer networks, herein a policy is a rule about what capabilities are allowed or disallowed for traffic between a customer network and another network when the conditions of the rule are met and wherein policies can be distinct for distinct customers and policies are modifiable in response to security attacks encountered;" so the system would be inoperable if there were no means for allowing the customer to select security features in Wadlow system. Therefore the examiner disagrees with applicant that Wadlow fails to teach allowing the customer to select security service features.

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Regarding applicant argument that Wadlow fails to demonstrate how the CLR fails to redirect user traffic to a different pathways or the pass-through router, the examiner disagree with the applicant. Wadlow discloses that The Customer Local Router (CLR) connects Device FW to the Customer Site Router (CSR). The CLR also limits the connections to and from a customer. The CSR connects a Customer Exported Network (CEN) and the Customer Protected Network (CPN). The CSR defines what types of traffic can pass between the CPN and Device FW, between the CEN and Device FW and between the CEN and the CPN. Further claims 5 and 7 in Wadlow are more specific as they disclose that controlling data traffic "controlling data traffic selects an action from permitting the data traffic to flow, denying the data traffic and redirecting the data traffic."

Regarding applicant arguments that Barrett fails to disclose plurality of information handlers performing different security function, the examiners disagree with the applicant. Barrett teaches that the terminal information handlers could b a plurality of handlers (Col 6, lines 56-63) which can be configured by the user to perform different security functions (Col 8, lines 20-49) for example the user can specify security functions performed by the information handler in the access server, for example the user can specify inbound or outbound connections to be blocked; addresses authorized to communicate with the customer; what type of connections are allowed or blocked; and any other conditions in which the communication is to be allowed or blocked (Col 8, lines 50-58) so each handler may perform a different security function corresponding to the customer configuration. Additionally if there is no configuration set

by the user or if the security level field indicates that there is no need to consult the user policy the information handlers perform a default action and forward the packets to the client.

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firas Alomari whose telephone number is (571) 272-7963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AYAZ SHEIKH can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Firas Alomari
Examiner
Art Unit 2136

FA


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